

Message Text

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20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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P 121140Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6139

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T KABUL 8449

E X D I S

LONDON FOR S/S PASS TO MR. SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF, US

SUBJECT: US-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) KABUL 8294; (B) 239732

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 12 MEETING WITH NAIM HAS LAID TO REST AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING THE MATTER OF POSSIBLE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT. AFGHAN MOTIVES IN RAISING THIS ISSUE ARE NOT CLEAR, BUT THEY INCLUDE AN ATTEMPT TO INDICATE THAT THE US WILL HAVE TO PROVE THAT OUR INTENTIONS TOWARD THE DAOUD REGIME ARE FRIENDLY.

1. IN MY MEETING WITH NAIM DEC 12, I BEGAN BY SETTING FORTH AS OUTLINED PARA 4, REF A MY REACTION TO THE "EVIDENCE" OF US INVOLVEMENT IN THE MAIWANDWAL COUP ATTEMPT. NAIM RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT AFGHANISTAN WANTS CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THAT IT HAD BEEN IN THAT SPIRIT THAT HE HAD MADE AVAILABLE TO ME THE DOCUMENTS AND TAPE. HE AGREED THAT THEY DID NOT CONSTITUTE FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE, ADDING THAT THE ONLY PERSON WHO MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED SUCH EVIDENCE, MAIWANDWAL HIMSELF, HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE BEFORE TELLING HIS STORY. NAIM WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVES THAT AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH HAS AN INTEREST IN DISTURBING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND AFGHANISTAN. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING I WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT HE AGREED THERE

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WAS NO EVIDENCE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN MAIWANDWAL'S EFFORTS.

2. COMMENT: I HAVE NOT BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO BE CERTAIN THAT THIS SPECIFIC INCIDENT IS NOW OVER, BUT MY GUESS IS THAT IT IS

AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. IT IS ALSO A LITTLE EARLY FOR ME TO
BE CERTAIN WHY WHAT IS CLEARLY NOT EVIDENCE WAS PUT TO ME. THE
REASONS GIVEN IN PARA 2, REF B, ARE ALL POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH I
WOULD LIST THEIR ORDER OF PROBABILITY FROM C TO B TO A. IN
ADDITION, THIS EPISODE GAVE THE GOA AN OPPORTUNITY TO MUDDY
THE WATERS BETWEEN US AND THE PAKISTANIS. I HAVE EVERY REASON TO
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT DAOUD AND NAIM ARE SINCERE IN WANTING TO
HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE US, ESPECIALLY OF COURSE WHEN IT
COMES TO MATTERS LIKE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE
VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN. A BY-PRODUCT OF THIS EXCHANGE WAS THE
OPPORTUNITY IT GAVE ME TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP WITH NAIM.
ELIOT

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